

MAN 01273

In the lists of expenses the chief item was tennis balls; six dozen cost £4- 1- 0 (\$8.10). There was also the regular cost of lining the courts and of tar supplied by the Moorabbin Shire Council for use on the courts; one item is puzzling - "Return of lost balls 2/- (20c)"; "Possibly local children were paid by the Club for returning balls lost in the thick scrub of the park." Other expenses were for nets, tables, trestles, paint, nails, locks, repairs to courts, nets, spouting, seats and doors. Up to 1907 there were several charges for firewood, presumably for the stove or open fire on which the kettle was boiled for afternoon tea. Then the Club purchased a primus stove and there is an account for kerosene; the following year gas was installed and regular accounts for it came in. In 1914 a new court was laid down.

The Club held tournaments though whether regular or not is not clear from the accounts; one woman member had "an engraved shield" placed on her racquet, probably for winning one of them. There were also matches played against other clubs; Mornington and Kew are mentioned.

By 1915, the second year of the First World War, there were donations to the Cheltenham branch of the Red Cross Society. And in 1917 the Club was repaying part of loans from four of its members, though when the money was borrowed is not clear.

About the year 1924 a fire bug broke loose in Cheltenham, destroying as well as the tennis pavilion one side of the station and damaging the school and the Church of England. A brick clubhouse replaced the old wooden one. The Club seems to have functioned till sometime in the nineteen forties; perhaps the Second World War caused its membership to go down. By the mid-nineteen fifties the courts were deserted; they remained a depressing sight until cleared away in 1962 when the war memorials were placed in the park.

YOUTH EXPO.

The Society has been granted a place at Youth Expo in the Moorabbin Town Hall on Monday and Tuesday 26th and 27th July. It will exhibit objects, photographs and documents connected with youth activities in the past.